Annex "A," Subparagraph 2d,

Political Background

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

•625 The police force, including the security police, is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. Each administrative district has a police commissioner in every city and a sheriff in each rural commune. At the disposal of each of these officers is the police force itself and, when they are needed, the mobile police. The security police carry out special State police duties. The commissioners and sheriffs are graduates of the Department of Law at Helsinki University, while the ordinary policemen are usually recruited from among the farmers and other rural people. The quality of the police force is high, and, in general, public order and safety are well maintained. No major clashes have

625 occurred between the police and the public, although there have been complaints that the people are generally not too eager to assist the police. This is partly attributed to the fact that during the Russian oppression the police force was a too willing tool in the hands of the foreign power, thus acquiring an unsavory reputation.

Uniformed policemen are a familiar sight in the cities, where they are on duty all day long directing traffic and keeping an eye on drunkards and other persons likely to disturb public order. [363] Parking is no problem in Finland, where there are no more than 13 private cars for each 1000 inhabitants, but reckless driving is rather common, and a traffic light system has been only recently introduced in some of the major cities. As a rule, it is quite safe to walk around alone even after midnight, as the streets are

625 well lighted and policemen regularly patrol the city. Mounted police are used when large crowds are expected in case of a parade or outdoor festival, but disorder during these events is extremely rare. The calm and slow Finns are not at all inclined to rioting or loud demonstrations.

674 Finland shows a higher annual percentage of criminal cases than Sweden, for example, especially as far as murder or manslaughter are concerned. Alcohol is a significant factor in the majority of violent crimes, and it is known that Finns do not take well to liquor. Larceny and fraud are less frequent; the Finns have of old a reputation of being honest and dependable people, but it is difficult to say if this is well
681 deserved. Many people feel that the existing penal code is too lenient and does not present